

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2001

Chief Dale Bosworth
U.S. Department of Agriculture—Forest Service
201 14th Street, SW at Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Acting Director Nina Rose Hatfield
U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management
1849 C St NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Chief Bosworth and Director Hatfield:

In an official letter to federal agency officials (dated September 4, 2001—attached), a group of distinguished scientists from Oregon and Washington requested that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management adapt the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) to protect all remaining mature and old growth forests on federal lands in the planning region. We are impressed by this statement, and wish to inform you that we are committed to protecting our region's mature and old growth forests.

Like the authors of the letter, we continue to support the management strategy articulated by the NWFP. We believe that the NWFP, which safeguards our heritage by integrating terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem conservation measures, is a positive model for the nation's forests. The NWFP also outlined a comprehensive watershed restoration program, which, if faithfully implemented, will benefit forest ecosystems and Northwest communities. Investing in ecosystem restoration activities such as road maintenance and removal, restoration of aquatic systems, and ecological restoration in existing young plantations can all provide economic opportunities in the natural resource management sector even as we protect our ancient forest heritage.

We have some requests and questions associated with non-harvest ecosystem restoration activities that will help guide us as we address the policy changes suggested in the scientists' letter. We request the following information:

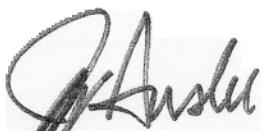
- A list of accomplished watershed restoration projects during the life span of the NWFP;
- An accounting of the budget needed to fully implement a comprehensive restoration program, based upon NWFP recommendations;
- The associated job projections tied to full funding of restoration activities.

We believe that the scientists' case for protection of mature and old growth forests is further bolstered by ongoing social and economic changes in our region over the past decade. The majority of our constituents, both urban and rural, now support further protection for old forests. In addition, our economy has continued to evolve and

diversify. Our regional economy has grown out of its historic dependence on federal forests as a source of wood products. These industries currently account for less than 2% of all jobs in Washington and Oregon and over the past decade new job creation in the region far outpaces job losses in the timber industry. We recognize that protecting forest ecosystems is an essential part of maintaining a healthy economy in the Northwest.

We look forward to working with you on these important natural resource matters.

Sincerely,



JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress



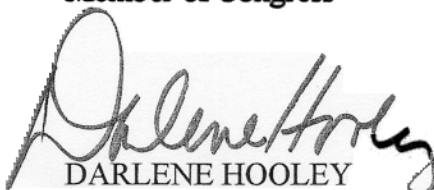
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Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH
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